

Reply to Office Action

Appl. No.: 09/751,121 Art Unit: 3624

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION  
REPLACEMENT SENTENCES IN PARAGRAPHS  
RELATIVE TO THE IMMEDIATE PRIOR VERSION**

Specification on Page 8, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, line 5 (Replacement): Then, an invitation to bid, rate and or communicate (ITB) for shipping at least one load is automatically created by the system from the submitted RFB and automatically electronically transmitted from the central processing system to a least one or a plurality of qualified carriers, without the carriers initiating communication with the computer system.

Specification on Page 9, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 3 (Replacement): At least one of the carriers then enters a bid and/or rate, dollar amounts being positive, zero or negative, for each load desired which are then submitted and electronically received at the central processing system.

Specification on Page 16, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 2 (Replacement): And in alternative modes of operation, the computer 12, 13 are operated with computer-generated or ~~fax-transmitted~~ facsimile machine 35, 36 transmitted forms in a non-browser environment, and the data from these forms is transmitted in data files or facsimile files by e-mail or by a dial-up type of network or interactive voice response (IVR).

Specification on Page 16, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, line 7 (Replacement): The ITB 19 is then automatically electronically transmitted according to a distribution list 17 of qualifying or specifically requested carriers 13, without the carrier initiating communication with the computer system.

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Specification on Page 17, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 5 (Replacement): The central processing system 10 then analyses the bids and/or rates, dollar amounts being positive, zero or negative, by executing logic block 16 to select a group of the "best seven" bids and/or rates.

Specification on Page 17, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 9 (Replacement): However, additional groups of seven bids and/or rates can be seen beyond the initial seven ~~(i.e.: 14, 21, 28 etc.)~~ (e.g. fourteen bids, twenty-one bids, twenty-eight bids, etc.) can be shown on private access networks (PAN).

Specification on Page 17, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 11 (Replacement): The bids and/or rates included in the "Best 7" report 21 then is automatically electronically transmitted to the shipper 12, without the shipper initiating communication with the computer system.

Specification on Page 19, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 2 (Replacement): In the second instance, the shippers and carriers can transmit a file of facsimile data to the e-mail mailboxes 32 using ~~whether either~~ a personal computer 12, 13 or a facsimile machine ~~36, 37~~ 35, 36.

Specification on Page 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, line 1 (Replacement): Referring to Figs. 9 and ~~[[10]]~~ 10a-10e, certain data from the shippers and carriers is pre-installed in the database 14.

Specification on Page 21, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 1 (Replacement): Referring next to ~~Fig. 3~~ Figs. 3a-3m, the system and method of the present invention begins operation when a shipper 12 creates and submits a request for bids, rates and communication (RFB) 18 to ship a load.

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Specification on Page 22, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, line 1 (Replacement): In the next area 47 ~~(Fig. 3)~~ Fig. 3b, ~~labels~~ labeled "Carrier Requirements" there are check boxes for load type (TL, LTL, CL, LCL), transit mode .....for minimum cargo insurance (i.e.: ~~N/A~~ N/A to \$10,000,000).

Specification on Page 22, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 1 (Replacement): In the next area 48 ~~(Fig. 4)~~ (Fig. 3b), labeled "Equipment Requirements" ~~[[,]]~~ there are pull down menu list boxes .....equipment height and equipment width.